

MP
8 Aug 59

Memo

Subject: Speaking invitation from Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, for Jan. 1960

This occasion would seem to provide an excellent forum for publicly discussing such topics as the Soviet capabilities in missiles, aviation, and/or scientific and engineering education. The occasion provides good sponsorship, a good "elite" audience, and would probably command a good press.

1. The ^(I.A.S.) Institute of Aeronautical Sciences is an old and established and influential professional organization of aeronautical engineers among industrial, academic, governmental, and military circles. It is described ^{itself} as a "professional society of engineers, designers, and technical specialists in the sciences related to the design and development of aircraft". It has 18,000 members, with a main office in N.Y.C. (Rockefeller Center), which publishes two monthly journals and other publications; it has 28 "local" chapters or groups, and 75 "student" groups or college chapters. In addition to its major annual convention and meeting in N.Y.C., it has ~~other~~ many other specialized meetings throughout the year, e.g. coming up soon as an anti-submarine warfare "symposium" ^{security} in San Diego, on a classified basis.

2. The top leadership of the I.A.S. includes ~~top~~ leaders from government, industry, and the universities. For example, the following ~~are~~ on the Council hold ~~the~~ positions as follows:

William Littlewood, Vice Pres., American Airlines
Clifford C. Furnas, Chancellor at University of Buffalo, former
Asst Secretary of Defense for Research and Development
William B. Bergen, Vice Pres., Glenn L. Martin Co.
Adm. C.M. Bolster (USN, ret.), former chief of Naval research
Milton U. Clauser, head of Purdue School of Aeronautics, and
member of USAF Scientific Advisory Board

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Jack S. Parker, mechanical engineer, at General Electric Vice Pres.
L. Eugene Root, aeronautical engineer, formerly with Rand and
with USAF staff; now Vice Pres. at Lockheed.
H. Guyford Stever, aeronautical engineer, on MIT faculty, with
Vannevar Bush's OSRD during war, now Vice Chairman of
USAF Scientific Advisory Board

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3. The I.A.S. and its spokesmen and journals seem to have been aloof during the past year or two on ^{(such} ~~the~~ controversial public issues as ~~scientific~~ scientific secrecy and the "missile gap", judging from a quick review of our morgue. This silence--or "keeping their powder dry"--attests to ~~the~~ the fact that this Iⁿstitute is not a ~~sensation-seeking~~ sensation-seeking outfit; in contrast to the "noisy" debate in other organs of scientific opinion such as the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, the McGraw Hill "Aviation Week," the "Missiles and Rockets" magazine, etc. In effect, the Director would have an excellent ^{and very dignified} forum for an objective discussion of any of the topics indicated.

4. The particular annual meeting ~~in~~ which the Director would address -- the "Honors Night" meeting, seems to be the most widely publicised of its week of meetings. ^{Keith} (Glennan's address last January, in which he ^{announced} the NASA "astronauts" program, was headlined the next day in the N.Y. Times; but there was relatively little notice of IAS' other meetings.) The audience promised--some 1500 or 2000--would doubtless include many of the elite of the Nation's aeronautical engineers and "space scientists" in industry, government, and academic circles.

5. As to the timing of a speech late in January 1960, such a speech would come, ^{of course,} for example, 2 weeks or so after the President's annual "State of the Union" message and his annual "Budget" message. In this context, the Director would doubtless command a good press for whatever he might be saying, by way of "supplement", to what the President ~~has~~ will have said about the Soviet Communist threats.

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